

of economic distress). Distressed area designations are based on data from the 2000 census. These designations may change annually depending on shifts in the county economic status while the underlying census tract data will be updated with each decennial census.

Locating Distressed Areas (Census Tracts)

A map and two tables are provided to help locate distressed areas in the Appalachian Region. Using different colors, the map displays the county economic status levels as well as the distressed areas. Table 1 lists the economic status of each county and the number of distressed areas in the at-risk and transitional counties that contain them. Table 2 lists the ID (FIPS) number of each distressed area, which can be used to locate them on paper maps or with interactive mapping systems, as outlined below.

American Fact Finder Reference Maps

The U.S. Census Bureau's interactive mapping system can be accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov/jsp/saff/SAFFInfo.jsp?_pageId=referencemaps&_submenuId=maps_2. To quickly find a census tract select the boundary grouping named "2000 Census Tracts and Blocks". Next, select a state or enter a ZIP Code to zoom in to the area of interest. A refreshed map will appear but additional zooming and panning may be required using the available tools. The map's legend reveals that census tract boundaries and their ID numbers are displayed in a brownish-gold color. When the area of interest is found, the census tract ID number can be compared to ARC's Table 2 to determine whether it is a distressed area. The map display can be simplified by changing the boundaries and features on the website to show only states, counties, census tracts, and urban areas.

2000 Census Tract Outline Maps

Maps of census tracts and other civil divisions can be downloaded from the U.S. Census Bureau in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF). These maps can be viewed on-screen or printed to assist in locating census tracts. http://ftp2.census.gov/plmap/pl_trt/

2000 Census Tract Cartographic Boundaries (GIS)

The 2000 census tract boundary files can be downloaded from the U.S. Census Bureau and incorporated into a Geographic Information System (GIS) for mapping and analysis. These data layers are provided in ARC/INFO Export, ArcView Shapefile, and ARC/INFO Generate formats. <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/tr2000.html>

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